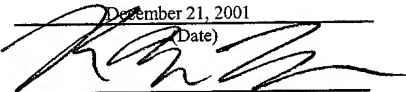


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Hodges, et al.	)	Group Art Unit Unassigned
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			)	20231, on
Examiner	:	Unassigned	)	
			)	

December 21, 2001  
(Date)  
  
Rose M. Thiessen, Reg. No. 40,202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph after line 1 on page 1:

--This is a continuation of Application No. 09/618,515 filed July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/981,385 filed April 17, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,284,125 on September 4, 2001, which was the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU96/00365, which has an International filing date of June 19, 1996, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on January 3, 1997.--

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REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 12/21/01

By: 

Rose M. Thiessen  
Registration No. 40,202  
Attorney of Record  
620 Newport Center Drive  
Sixteenth Floor  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Appl. No. : Unknown  
Filed : Herewith

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Deleted text is indicated by **[bracketed boldface]**. Added text is indicated by **underlined boldface**.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 1, after line 1, the following paragraph has been inserted:

--This is a continuation of Application No. 09/618,515 filed July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/981,385 filed April 17, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,284,125 on September 4, 2001, which was the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU96/00365, which has an International filing date of June 19, 1996, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on January 3, 1997.--

AMEND

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